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## NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

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OUR readers will be interested to know that the Verein für Socialpolitik has arranged for a fortnight during next autumn a series of popular courses of lectures in Berlin by some of the most distinguished professors of Economics in Germany. During this "social-politische Ferienkursus" there will probably be an opportunity of listening to lectures on the following subjects:—

Brentano (Munich), Arbeitslohn.

Schmoller (Berlin), Arbeitstheilung, sociale Klassen-bildung und sociale Kämpfe.

Wagner (Berlin), Privateigenthum und Kommunismus.

Miaskowski (Leipzig), Die Agrar-frage.

Sering (Berlin), Die Agrar-verhältnisse in Deutschland.

Bücher (Leipzig), Gewerbliche Betriebsformen.

Conrad (Halle), Kolonien und Auswanderung.

Elster (Breslau), Armenwesen und Versicherungswesen.

Oldenburg (Berlin), Deutsche Sozialisten.

Knapp (Strassburg), Agrarwesen [or] Geldwesen. And two other lectures not yet decided upon.

The lecturers are all university instructors. Each one will deliver six lectures, to be given in Berlin in the University Building, commencing September 30 and continuing two weeks. The price for each course will be either two or three marks, not yet definitely fixed. Women will be admitted on the same footing with men.

If the experiment proves successful, as no doubt it will, a permanent organization will be set on foot.

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MR. JOHN RAE'S *Life of Adam Smith*, announced some time ago by Macmillan, is now published, and justifies the general expectation that it would be found to be a solid and satisfactory performance. Mr. Rae has patiently brought to-

gether every scrap of biographical information, and sets it forth in a manner both clear and pleasant. It is as to Adam Smith's professorial activity, and still more as to his experiences in France, that we are especially thankful for a more detailed account than is given in Dugald Stewart's meagre memoir.

Adam Smith's personality now stands clearly enough before us,—powerful, dignified, genial; not, perhaps, very winning. The biographer has indeed restricted himself mainly to the external incidents in Smith's life, and in this field has probably left but little to be done by any successor. Of Smith's mental history, however, hardly any account is attempted; and where Mr. Rae does touch upon it, as in occasional references to the Physiocrats, his remarks hardly show the careful study of the sources displayed in the rest of the book. But the chosen task was the one that needed to be attended to first, and it has been performed once for all.

The reader will be interested to find that Mr. Rae has brought together about fifty letters written by Adam Smith, including nearly all that have hitherto found their way into print and not far from twenty-five now printed for the first time.

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THE British Economic Association has issued a beautifully executed fac-simile reproduction of Quesnay's *Tableau Œconomique*. This is not, it may be noticed, a copy of the original manuscript, still extant, nor of the first edition, which was so rigorously suppressed that a copy of it is no longer recoverable. It is a copy of the reprint, "with some slight modifications," which was made for Quesnay's own use in 1759, and of which an example has been recently rediscovered by Dr. Bauer. The "few prefatory remarks" are rather scrappy; and the unprepared or forgetful reader who finds himself confronted with the "Extrait des Œconomies Royales de M. de Sully," without a word of warning as to that mystifying title, may wish for some little explanation. But, on the whole, the Association may well be satisfied with this, the first of its reprints.

THE Chief of the Bureau of Statistics has given notice that, under the recent law governing the public printing of the United States, the edition of the *Monthly Summary of Imports and Exports* has been reduced to so small a number as to forbid its distribution except to custom-houses and public offices. This notice will cause great regret to a large number of persons who have found this publication a valuable aid in the past. In the hands of Mr. Worthington C. Ford, the present chief, the scope of the work has been greatly enlarged until it has become one of the most important documents issued by the government, incomparably more useful to the public than a large part of the matter which the Houses of Congress order to be printed and distributed by the ton.

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PROFESSOR GUSTAV SCHMOLLER is understood to be at work on a *Grundriss der Nationalökonomie*, which he expects to publish next year. It will be an enlargement of his article in Conrad's *Handwörterbuch der Staatswissenschaften*, and of his lectures on "Allgemeine oder theoretische Nationalökonomie." There will also be some additional chapters by Professor Lexis on the mathematical and biological aspects of the science.